

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3604
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2016
Fellowship Scheme to Retain Scientists
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing fellowship scheme to attract and retain Indian scientists who have settled in various parts of world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether despite the scheme being implemented by the Government still majority of experts, scientists are undertaking their research projects in foreign land;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the total number of scientists returned to the homeland for pursuing research in India in their respective fields of expertise since inception of this programme; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI.Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Government is implementing various fellowship schemes to attract and retain Indian scientists who have settled in various parts of world. These schemes include Ramanujan Fellowship of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ramalingaswami re-entry Fellowship of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) which are aimed to attract highly skilled Indian researchers working overseas by providing them attractive avenue to pursue their R&D interests in Indian institutions. The Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme of DST, provides opportunities to young Indian citizens and people of Indian origin, to work in Indian Institutions/ Universities to carry out independent research and emerge as a leader in science & technology.

(c) & (d): Though there are better avenues for undertaking cutting edge research in many areas of science and engineering in the country, several of the scientists continue their research work in overseas institutions due to various socio-economic reasons. 209 scientists under Ramanujan fellowship, 211 Ramalingaswami fellows, and 344 INSPIRE Faculty Fellows have returned to India to pursue their research in Indian Institutions/ Universities.

(e) A number of scientists who had undertaken these fellowships are absorbed as faculty in several Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Science Education & Research, Central Universities, and other leading National Laboratories in the country. The fellows are further supported through various competitive extramural funding schemes of the Departments. In addition, Government through various schemes has strengthened the research infrastructure of the academic and research institutions so that the fellows can continue with high quality research.
